

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite lines 22 - 23 on page 17 and lines 1 - 10 on page 18 as follows:

In accordance with the invention, methods and systems are claimed wherein, in a marketplace, offers are processed that are intended to be associated with other offers. The offers specify acceptable conditions for acceptance. ~~Improveable offers are received that are capable of being associated with offers having more favorable specifications than initial offers associated with the improveable offers. Nonimproveable offers that have more favorable specifications than initial offers associated with improveable offers are identified. The identified nonimproveable offers are associated with corresponding improveable offers.~~ Embodiments of a method for clearing offers in a marketplace are presented. In some methods for clearing offers, which specify conditions for acceptance, a plurality of advantaged offers are received and each advantaged offer is associated with one or more available most-favorable disadvantaged offers wherein, the conditions of acceptance of each advantaged offer are met by each associated disadvantaged offer; and the association of an advantaged offer is changed whenever a newly available disadvantaged offer that offers more favorable terms than a currently associated disadvantaged offer is received, where the newly available disadvantaged offer is also capable of meeting the terms of acceptance of the advantaged offer with which it is now being associated. An offer is available if portions of the offer have not been associated with any other offer. Straddles comprise a set of offers and a limit on the total number of units or offers that may lock across the set of offers within a straddle and may span multiple pools and have dependencies. Consistent with the present invention, information about market parameters, like price

elasticity, may be obtained from data generated by the operation of the market-clearing system.